(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND T0US1SM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Airports Authority of India have neither information about commencement of these works nor its subsequent abandonment.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Schemes for development of tourism by Darjeeling Goirkha hill council**

6842. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minster of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any major scheme for the development of tourism from the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Govern lent have taken steps to allot necessar- funds as asked for; and

(d) if so. the amount of suet funds released so far?

THE MINISTER Ol CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) 0n the basis of complete and eligible proposals received from the Stau; Government, Central financial assistance was sanctioned in respect of the following project/ schemes during the las three years:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Scheme | Amount Sanctioned | Amount Released |
|---|---|---|
| **1992-93** | | |
| 1. Augmentation of facilities at Mainak Tourist Lodge, Siliguri . | 29.00 | 14.50 |
| **1993-94** | | |
| 1. Construction of wayside facility at Pashupati . . . . | 24.14 | 5.00 |
| **1994-95** | | |
| 1. Tea and Tourism Festival 1993 . . . . . | 04.28 | 4.28 |
| 2. Production of Video film on Darjeeling . . . . | 02.00 | 2.00 |

**Development of Heritage tourism in Himachal Pradesh**

6843. SHRI KEISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it it a fact that the con cept of heritne loursim has been ac cepted by all the States in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the States where his concept has been adopted;

(c) whether Himachal Pradesh is one of them; and

(d) if so, the details of the plan being drawn up for the development of this concept in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) India has several attractions in the field of tourism such as culture, monuments, fairs and festivals, art and crafts, etc. All form part of our great national

heritage and are promoted as tourist attractions by all States including Himachal Pradesh.

To promote our Heritage a new concept of Heritag; Hotels was evolved in National Action Plan for Tourism 1992. This has become very popular in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Government has approved five Her lage Hotel projects consisting of 75 rooms in Himachal Pradesh.

**Modernisation of airports with the asis-tance of foreign agencies**

6844. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed agreemens with the foreign agencies for financial assistarce to increase the facilities at airpors and also to modernise them;

(b) if so, the names of such foreign organisations|agsencies;

(c) the names of airports which are proposed to be modernisd under these agreements; and

(d) the faciliues which are proposed to be provided in these airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM(SHRI GHULAM MABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The Government has not signed my such agreement with any foreign agency.

**Increase in foreign tourist arrivals**

6845. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whther there has been a major breakthrough in foneign tourist arrivals during (he last ten months;

(b) if so, whether January, 1994 registered the highest ever tourist arrivals;

(c) the average percentage increase therein as compared to the last year;

(d) whether Govornmenht are expec ting further rise in the arrivals of foreign tourisfs in the coming years; and

(e) if so, the deiails thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a') to (c) December, 1994 registered the highest ever tourist arrivals for a single month. The details of tourist arrivals during the period from January 1993 to April 1995 are given in the enclose! Statement. (See below)

(d) and (e) The tourist arrivals registered a positive growth of 3.8 percent during the first four months of 1995. This positive trend in Tourist arrivals is expected to continue during the coming year.

**Statement**

*Foreign Tourist arrivals during* 1993, 1994 *and January to April* 1995 *(incliding the National of Pakistan and Bangladesh*

| Month | Tourist Arrivals 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | Percen-tage 1994/93 | Change 1995/94 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| January . . . . . | 1,50,09 | 1,92,551 | 1,97,343 | 28.4 | 2.5 |
| Febuary . . . . . | 1,449,68 | 1,72,642 | 1,87,614 | 15.3 | 8.7 |
| March . . . . . | 1,46,191 | 1,87,129 | 1,88,252 | 28.0 | 0.6 |
| April . . . . . | 1.18,200 | 1,42,501 | 1,47,855(P) | 20.6 | 3.8 |
| May . . . . . | 1,03.371 | 1,20,183 | .. | 16.3 | .. |